

## About Children.

A superstition used to exist that a child which did not cry when sprinkled in baptism would not live long. In the west of Scotland, according to James Napier, it was considered unlucky to name a child by any name before the rite of baptism was performed. When children seemed prematurely smart it was believed that they would not live long. Shakespeare puts this superstition in the mouth of Richard III. Bulwer mentions the tradition concerning children born open-handed, that will be liberal and big-hearted. A character in one of Dekker's plays says: "I am a most wretched fellow; surely some left-handed priest christened me, I am so unlucky."

According to Irish and Scottish superstitions, the elves, though in the main harmless, have the bad reputation of stealing children from the cradle and substituting for them changelings who bear resemblance to the stolen infants, but are ugly creatures and never thrive. On such a theft of a female infant, who is carried to fairy-land, but in the course of years returns to her parents, James Hogg founded his fine ballad of "Kilmeny" (Queen's Wake). In some parts of Scotland it is a popular notion among the lower classes that when a child is for the first time taken into the open air, the bearer of it should give something to eat to the first person met, otherwise the child will be unlucky. The gift is called "the bairn's piece." When a child was taken from its mother, and carried outside the bedroom for the first time after its birth, it was lucky to take it upstairs, and unlucky to take it downstairs. It was not considered lucky to carry a baby into a neighbor's house until the mother took it herself; and this it was unlucky for even her to do, until she had been to church.

It was considered unlucky for children to walk backwards while going on an errand. It was deemed unlucky to measure a baby; and if its nails were cut before it was a year old, it would turn out a thief; it was unlucky for a boy to wear trousers made on a Friday, and to sweep dust over the feet of the girls would prevent them from getting husbands. In Hindostan, when a baby sneezes, the mother snaps her thumb and finger, and repeats aloud the name of one of her gods. When a child casts a tooth, in South Sweden, the tooth is thrown into the fire. In Switzerland it is carefully wrapped up, and salt inclosed with it before it is thrown into the fire. In Herriek's time it was regarded as a lucky omen to place a knife near a sleeping child. Good Friday and Easter Sunday were considered lucky days for changing the caps of children.

In the west of England the fortunes of children are believed to be largely regulated by the day of the week on which they are born:

"Monday's child is fair in face,  
Tuesday's child is full of grace,  
Wednesday's child is full of woe,  
Thursday's child has far to go,  
Friday's child is loving and giving,  
Saturday's child works hard for his living,  
And a child that is born on Christmas Day  
Is fair and wise, good and gay."

Among some of the tribes in Africa if two babies come to a family at the same time they think it a dreadful thing. No body except the family can go into the tent where they were born, not use any of the things in it. The twins are not allowed to play with other children, and the mother cannot talk to anyone outside of the family. This is kept up for six years. If the babies live to be six years old, the restrictions are removed, and they are treated like other children.

## Imitation Shellac Varnish.

The following article is used by many furniture manufacturers:

Gum sandarach, 1½ pounds,  
Pale rosin, 1½ pounds,  
Benzine, 2 gallons.

Dissolve by gentle heat. This varnish is cheap, quick drying, and has always given satisfaction.

## Why He Had No Foreign Accent.

"Speaking of the difficulty foreigners experience in giving the proper accent to English," said Captain Boslone, "reminds me of the fact that when I first came hither I could not speak English, yet you cannot detect in my conversation a foreign accent."

"To acquire such perfection must have taken much time," replied a lady.

"Oh yes, it required years."

"Must have been young when you came to this place?"

"Yes, I was very young. In fact, I was born here."—Arkansas Traveler.

## The Vice-Presidential Nominee on the Butler Ticket.



GEN. A. M. WEST.

Gen. West has long been a prominent citizen of Mississippi. He was a brigadier general in the Confederate army; is at present a planter at Holly Springs, Miss., and financially interested in some large enterprises of that state.

## WORTH AND THE WOMEN.

How the Leading Man Milliner Manages His Customers.

[Kate Field in Boston Herald.]

My first visit in Paris is always to Worth, not only because he is a great artist, but because he is an entertaining man. He has a large establishment in the Rue de la Paix, where 400 young women stitch, stitch, not at all in poverty, hunger and rags. His employees number 1,200 in all, and during the Commune, when nobody ordered dresses or anything else, Worth provided for seventy of his workwomen, though he, too, suffered for want of decent food. That the man is a genius in his profession is as evident as the multiplication table. He has inherited his ability from his mother, who possessed exquisite taste. You must not judge Worth by all the dresses made by him, as I used to do. If a woman insists upon having a fussy, furbelowed costume, Worth is obliged to make it, however disgusted he may be.

"My life is anything but a bed of roses," he said one day. "What I have to endure from some women is simply incredible, when it is remembered they call themselves 'ladies.' A person sailed in one day and gave an order, saying, 'I don't like your taste, Mr. Worth; I want so and so.' 'Madame,' I replied, 'you can have what you want, but I am quite sure if I had your taste I shouldn't have any customers.' She didn't mind that sarcasm; she didn't understand it. What do women come to me for if they don't like my style? That's what they pay for. Why don't they make their own dresses if they know so much about it? Another lady said: 'You make my cousin's dresses and I don't approve of them, Mr. Worth.' 'Neither do I, madame,' I answered. 'If your cousin likes colors mixed up I can't help it. If you have a more cultivated eye than your cousin I congratulate you.'"

That's the way Worth talks to people. It doesn't make the least difference who they are. He says exactly what he thinks. A grand dame once went up to Worth to show him a costume she wore for the first time. Glancing at her, Worth exclaimed: "Your dress is spoiled by your gloves. Take them off." And off they came.

Worth is a tallish man, with a big head and a very prominent forehead. His brown eyes are singularly shrewd in expression and their seizure of detail is surprising, that is, for a man. As a rule men have no more eye for detail than owls have for the sun.

## Rum-Filled Walking-Sticks.

[New York Journal.]

"There is a cane," said a well-known dealer in gentlemen's furnishings goods the other day, "that I have just patented. It was suggested to me by the habit very young men have of wearing the heads of their sticks in their mouths. It is of bamboo, and lined with a thick covering of porcelain. The head may be of whatever shape the purchaser desires—a crab's claw, a dog's head, or simply a straight ivory handle, but running through it is a fine tube, guarded at its outer end by a spring valve. You see at once the immediate advantage of such a cane."

"It would be very light," observed his customer.

"My dear sir," returned the haberdasher, "it can be filled with any liquid. If the young man who carries it is very young he can carry a supply of milk with him, and as he strolls along Fifth Avenue refresh himself with cooling draughts of that harmless fluid. Think," he continued enthusiastically, "of being able to carry with you to the theatre a dozen whisky cocktails or a few brandy smashes. As you sit gazing abstractedly into the eyes of your fair companion, you can imbibe inspiration from her and rum from the cane at the same time. Besides, my patent does away with those intensely harassing excuses about 'going out to see a man,' or such statements as 'the gas makes me faint, I must get a breath of fresh air.'"

"It's a wonderful idea," observed the customer, as he grasped the possibilities of the invention. "Make me one big enough to hold a quart of ice-cream. I'm awfully fond of a girl and she's awfully fond of cream, but she prefers it melted. When I next walk out with her I won't have to dodge around the corner from 'Freezem,' the confectioner, but I can hand her my stick and tell her to help herself."

"That's a use for it that had not suggested itself to me," concluded the patentee, "but I assure you that I have already received sufficient orders from local option towns to insure my fortune."

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